

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 23 Oct 1950

TO : Chief, Foreign Division E
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe *CYAN*
SUBJECT: General — Operational
Specific — Impression of Dr. Hans GLOBKE
REF :

1. On 10 October, the day after the announcement of the resignation of Heinemann as Minister of the Interior, the U. S. Liaison Staff in Bonn invited Ministerialdirektor (Dr.) Hans Globke, the Chancellery's Internal Affairs chief to lunch. The lunch and our conversation before and after it lasted three hours and covered Heinemann's resignation, Globke's views on possible successors, his views on the police, and on rearmament. Thayer reported in full in State cables, Globke's account of Heinemann's resignation and Globke's news on police developments were overtaken by events before we could even get them on paper, but the general impression the man makes may still be of interest.

2. Ministerialdirektor Dr. Globke won notoriety as soon as Adenauer elevated him to his Chancellery post, where he first served as Adenauer's closest adviser on personnel selection. Globke, as an official of the prewar German government, had authored the official commentary on the Nuernberg anti-Semitic laws and was understandably enough attacked from all sides. His friends said his comments on the law were mild, that he tried to make the best of a rotten piece of legislation, and that he was actually an anti-Nazi. Globke himself produced about a dozen letters of testimony from distinguished clergymen, including two cardinals (he is a Roman Catholic) and from other known anti-Nazis. No amount of press comment and parliamentary criticism shook Adenauer's conviction that Globke was the man for him, and on he stayed. He was later elevated to Chief of the Internal Affairs Section of the Chancellery. Although the members of the Liaison Staff are accustomed to communing with rightists of the most cracked variety, such as Loritz and Leuchtgens, we braced ourselves for Globke with a drink apiece and waited. We were pleasantly surprised.

3. Globke is a man who appears to be about 55 or 60, of average build, a slight paunch, bloodless complexion, well-shaped features, gold-rimmed spectacles, and slicked back iron-grey hair. He was clearly on his best behavior, but even so, he

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ranged over such a variety of subjects, was pounded with so many leading questions, and consumed so much alcohol, that his personality, over a period of three hours, could be examined from many angles. After it was all over, Thayer, the progressive and open-eyed diplomat, Fabach, the German-born rugged individualist type U. S. businessman, and myself (whose background is recorded on innumerable government forms) all looked at each other and exchanged comments on how sensible, tolerant and even liberal Globke seemed to be. When Thayer later told Herwarth and Blankenhorn about his pleasant surprise, these two worthies replied in words to this effect: "So the old so-and-so took you in, too!" Despite their cynicism we were favorably impressed that Globke did not live up to his sensational advance notices.

4. Although we could only hazard a guess as to what type of man Globke had been in 1938 when he penned his commentaries on the Nuernberg laws, he now showed no trace of the paranoia that disfigures the usual professional anti-Semite. His comments on social problems, militarism, Adenauer, Theodore Blank, Heinemann, Dr. Dr. Lehr, and other figures were in all cases temperate, penetrating, and well-balanced. He spoke slowly, distinctly, with an excellent choice of words, and never ventured extreme opinions, except on militarism. He never once referred to such old saws as German destiny, maintenance of law and order, German honor, or lamented the amount of dissension in present German political life — all common themes in the chatter of the run-of-the-mill German politicians.

5. Globke was especially objective and sympathetic in his discussion of the Heinemann crisis. He recounted to us in great detail the talk Adenauer had had with the Minister of the Interior the previous night. Adenauer had showed Heinemann the critical letter from Niemöller accusing the Chancellor of conspiring with the U. S. High Commissioner McCloy to rearm Germany. Adenauer asked Heinemann his views on the letter, and he replied that Niemöller was expressing his private opinion. Adenauer pressed him for his own view, and Heinemann, who is, of course, the top layman of the German Evangelical Church, stated: "Twice God has struck our weapons from our hands, and it would be a sin to take them up again." Heinemann then went on to ask the Chancellor if it were not true about German generals being hired to organize an Army; Adenauer denied it. Adenauer finally stated that he could not permit a Minister with such views on security to sit in his cabinet, especially when the Minister, like Heinemann, insisted on making his views public. He thereupon accepted the letter of resignation which Heinemann had submitted two weeks earlier. Globke said that he had himself met Heinemann at a dinner a few hours later and had talked to him about the event. Heinemann, he said, had been surprised by Adenauer's "sudden" acceptance of his resignation and felt that the Chancellor should have given him more time to examine the question and perhaps to be converted. Globke then told him that he had, after all, had a few weeks to think it over and had stuck to his original views. This account of the crisis, related by Globke, was essentially confirmed by Blankenhorn in a later talk with Thayer.

6. Globke talked at length about the status of negotiations with the Laender on the establishment of a 30,000 man alert-police. What he said is now only of historical interest and was reported by Thayer anyway. Globke was very optimistic that some satisfactory agreement would be reached and did not foresee the total collapse of negotiations, which has come about in the last week. He was aware of all details of the negotiations and spouted off the facts and figures with a glibness quite in contrast to the hesitant and evasive utterings of Lex and Egidi on the same

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subject.

7. Re militarism, Globke was most interesting. He did not mention Schwarin at all, or Offspring-Zipper-Utility, and we did not question him regarding same. He stated that his own military experience was limited to two years as a corporal in World War I, and then voiced the sentiment that every vestige of the old German militaristic spirit and power of the officer clique must be destroyed before any other step is taken to rear Germany. Officers, he said, should not be allowed to wear their uniforms off duty, enlisted men should be allowed to salute only officers of their own unit when both are in uniform. Officer candidates should be drawn from all levels of society. The army should be indoctrinated from the start with the sentiment that it is European, not German. He ventured no opinion on strategy.

8. His views on the General Staff were also interesting. He stated that the old German General Staff was a much maligned institution, consisting of intelligent, educated and cultured men who generally opposed war. The really objectionable Prussian military spirit, he went on, was to be found among troop officers in the field. We accepted these observations without comment so that he would keep on talking without the major interruption that a sensible answer would have entailed.

9. In appraising Globke's character as a result of the three hour talk, we were forced to conclude that there is little in his makeup or beliefs that should upset the U. S. High Commission. On the other hand, his presence in the Chancellery is probably not much of a help to the German government. One would expect to find in him a strong and loyal supporter of the Chancellor and a champion of German sovereignty, pushing for the contraction of occupation authority. I found Globke to be entirely too neutral, open, and detached for this role. Many Germans in the government today who have long histories of close cooperation with the Allies, even on an ethical and non-agent basis, do talk freely and openly to us and to other U. S. officials, but it was somewhat strange to have Globke walk in cold and talk so openly and fully to us. Globke seemed to regard his position as that of a box-holder in a theater instead of as one of the main supporting actors. Although we found it agreeable to listen to him, I could not help reflecting that Adenauer would not have enjoyed the conversation as much as we did.

10. I am aware that Globke is an Offspring contact, and it may, of course, be that his ingenuous approach was designed to mask a feeling that the rearmament of Germany is in good hands and does not require his advocacy vis-a-vis the Liaison Office. But I noted nothing to bear out this possibility or to throw light on his true feeling regarding Offspring. If Globke is really a militarist of some kind, he certainly concealed it well.

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